

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, IBRD, UN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM ENDORSES MCNAMARA PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATE
COMMISSION ON NORTH/SOUTH QUESTIONS

1. IN AN OFFICIAL UN PRESS RELEASE DATED JANUARY 14,
IT WAS NOTED THAT WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA HAD IN-
FORMED SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM OF HIS PROPOSAL FOR A
PRIVATE COMMISSION ON NORTH/SOUTH QUESTIONS DURING THEIR
MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10. THE RELEASE NOTES THAT
WALDHEIM EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT THE PROPOSED COM-
MISSION "COULD INDEED MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO
UNITED NATIONS ENDEAVORS TO RESTRUCTURE INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC RELATIONS."

2. TEXT OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS.

QUOTE NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

STATEMENT ON MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM
AND WORLD BANK PRESIDENT ROBERT MCNAMARA
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WHEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND MR. MCNAMARA MET AT UNITED
NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ON MONDAY, 10 JANUARY 1977, MR.
MCNAMARA INFORMED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF HIS INTENTION TO
PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF
PERSONALITIES FROM DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH
WOULD ASSIST IN THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION.
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THIS
INITIATIVE, AS HE ATTACHES THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE AND PRIORITY
TO ON-GOING PROCESSES OF DELIBERATIONS AND NEGOTIATION IN
VARIOUS FORUMS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNA-
TIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON TUESDAY
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL STATED THAT THE DECISION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUSPEND ITS THIRTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND TO RESUME IT THIS YEAR REFLECTS THE DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE, AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE
IF THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY THIS DECISION TO OVERCOME
THE PRESENT IMPASSE IS NOT UTILIZED. HE URGED THAT CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED WITH A NEW SENSE OF URGENCY.
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THEREFORE SUPPORTS ANY PROPOSAL INTENDED
TO PURSUE THAT OBJECTIV AND EXPRESSED TO MR. MCNAMARA
HIS BELIEF THAT SUCH A COMMISSION -- THE MEMBERSHIP,
MANDATE AND TIMING OF WHICH ARE YET TO BE WORKED OUT --
COULD INDEED MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED NATIONS
ENDEAVOURS TO RESTRUCTURE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND MR. MCNAMARA AGREED TO CONTINUE
TO CONSULT EACH OTHER ON THIS MATTER. UNQUOTE
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